

## Senate Resolution 1455

By: Senators Staton of the 18th, Hooks of the 14th, Hill of the 4th, Thompson of the 33rd, Williams of the 19th and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. John Thomas Mitchell, Sr.; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Mr. John Thomas Mitchell, Sr., on April 8, 2010; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell was born on March 27, 1930, in Blythdale, Missouri, a beloved  
5 son of the late Reverend Harvey Raymond Mitchell and Beatrice Parman Mitchell; and
- 6 WHEREAS, a graduate of Gordon Military College in Barnesville, Mr. Mitchell earned a  
7 bachelor's degree from Erskine College, where he was a standout member of the Erskine  
8 Football Team; and
- 9 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
10 States Marine Corps, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans during the  
11 Korean War as a platoon leader, retiring as a major and coaching the Marine Corps football  
12 team in the Far East Rice Bowl; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell dedicated 50 years to higher education, teaching English and  
14 history and serving as head football coach at Gordon Military College and serving as  
15 recreation director for the City of Barnesville, director of admissions and vice president at  
16 Tift College, and director of admissions and athletic director at Mercer University; and
- 17 WHEREAS, while serving as director of admissions at Mercer University, Mr. Mitchell  
18 successfully encouraged and challenged the school's board of trustees to accept the school's  
19 first African American student in 1962, and Mr. Mitchell later served as Mercer's senior vice  
20 president for public and government affairs, helping establish support for the university's  
21 medical school; and

22 WHEREAS, a leader in the Macon community, Mr. Mitchell was a life member of the  
23 President's Club at Mercer University, served as chairman of the Airport Advisory  
24 Committee for the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce, helped obtain scholarships to  
25 Mercer University for Creek Indians, and was active with the Bibb County Hospital  
26 Authority, the Medcen Board of the Medical Center of Central Georgia, the Macon Rotary  
27 Club, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell was united in love and marriage for 49 wonderful years to Lillian  
29 Mary Terrell Mitchell, and was blessed with the love of his wonderful children, Mary Eva  
30 and Craig Tredway, Kea and Render Terrell "Tee" Mitchell, and Lisa and John T. Mitchell,  
31 Jr.; and eight grandchildren, John, James, Mary Elaine, Render, Lillian, Anna, Mary, and  
32 Madison; and

33 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Mitchell will long be remembered for  
34 his love of family and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, and friend will  
35 be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
37 join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. John Thomas Mitchell, Sr., and express their  
38 deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
40 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. John Thomas Mitchell,  
41 Sr.